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August 6, 1979

The TV-TS Tapestry

The TV-TS Tapestry is a publication of the Tiffany Club (a social and service organization for transvestites, transsexuals, and their friends and relatives). The subscription fee is $15.00 per year. For information, write or call: Tiffany Club, P.O. Box 426, North Hampton, NH 03862, 603-964-8668.

MONTHLY REPORT Besides being a month when 85' and 90% humidity was considered cool and dry, July was a sad month. First we suffered the loss of Mara, our friend, and one of Mayflower's most faithful members. Then we suffered the loss of the owner of our North Hampton facility. That was a double loss for me since the owner was also my mother. With her goes the property, and with it goes our facilities. That means on top of all else, the Tiffany Club will soon be homeless. One year's work for naught.

There were however, a few bright spots. For instance, DeeDee W. is healthy and spunky again, and that's always a plus for everybody. We have missed her wit, her charm . . . . her svelt body. . . .

Another bright spot is that although the weather was not what one would call conducive to dressing, unless one had a sweat fetish, we managed seven new members. So our growth continues, in spite of our set backs.

The final bright spot is that Diane is still out there plugging away in search of a new home for us. Unfortunately, everything at this time of year seems to be overpriced for students, and not for real people (like us). But fear not, we will find a place (especially since we have no choice).

LOVE,

Marcia Shirrill Lynn

IN THE FORUM:

'A transvestite Philosophizes' by Ruth Ann Moskowitz

The poem 'On Becoming' by Janet Birmingham

-FACILITIES-

Due to circumstances not rlated to us, and beyond our control, we are losing our North Hampton facilities. We have up to 60 days to relocate. It looks as though our Massachusetts house will not only be our primary facility, it will be our only facility (for the immediate future anyway). We have considerable clothing and private property in storage here. Unless otherwise notified, these items will be transfered to our new location at the appropriate time.

- FINANCES -

Our newsletter, The TV-TS Tapestry, was designed to break even at $10.00 per person per year, or $.75 per issue. The subscriber membership fee is $15.00 a year, which means we need at least four new members a month in order to pay for our newsletter. Since April we have been averaging seven new

(cont. on p. 2)

-IN MEMORIUM-

On July 14, Mara, an active member of the Kay Mayflower Society, passed away suddenly, and unexpectedly. She left behind many very special friends who loved her.

For those of us who crossdress our world is special. It is a world in which friendship takes on a more deeply felt meaning, a world in which a person can give and receive love without fear. Mara was a treasured member of our family, a friend, a loved and loving person, a beautiful lady, our sister.

She will be missed.

-MARA C.

- FINANCES - (cont.)

subscribers a month, so we are in fine shape as far as the Tapestry is concerned.

Any excess income from the subscriber membership fee is used for reaching out to new people through ads, and general correspondence. However, most of this excess income is being set aside as security fo4 future issues of the Tapestry. That means there is very little money from that source being used for miscellaneous expenses such ss newspaper ads, correspondence, office supplies, and the telephone. To pay for these expenses we must rely on contributions. The amount we have received through contributions is woeful, and therefore our ability to seek out and serve people is woeful. We have been able to maintain a minimal membership drive and we are becoming more widely known, but in order to improve our ability to reach out to and help others, we need all the financial help we can get.

(PLEASE! If you think our project is worth while, or can remember what it was like to have no place to go and no one to turn to, help us help others by sending your contribution to Tiffany Club, Box 426, N. Hampton, NH 03862)

By far our greatest expense is facilities. Our North Hampton facilities cost $150.00 per month, with two months to go. In Massachusetts, we are looking for facilities in the $500.00 to $600.00 plus utilities price range. This means by September 1st we could be facing a bill of $800.00 or more. Our facilities will be paid for by those people who will be using them, namely the residents, the general and keyholder members, and guest fees (a negligible factor). That means those of you who have indicated an interest in general, keyholder and life membership, it's time to pay up.

(For information on our facilities, and how much to pay, contact Diane Berry c/o Tiffany Club, or call her at 617-277-3454 after 8pm)

- COMING EVENTS -

TIFFANY CLUB Due to the unexpected instability of our facilities, no formal programs have been planned. However, the regular Tuesday evening meetings shall continue as long as the North Hampton facilities are available.
Call: 603-964-8668

KAY MAYFLOWER SOCIETY Regularly scheduled weekly meetings each Wednesday evening. Call: 617-254-7389

- NEW MEMBERS -

Let us welcome Susan A. (Mass.), Marion M. (Mass.), Bill B. (Mass.), Jan R. (Mary.), Sabrina R. (Mass.), Harvey L. (Mass.), Bill R. (Mass.), and Leo D. (Mass.)

- BULLETIN BOARD-

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

For you DeeDee fans, DeeDee has changed her address. From now on her address is:

D.D. W.
Box 10361 Elmwood Sta.
W. Hartford, Ct.
06110

WIG FOR SALE

Brown, wavy, worn approx. 5 times.
Retail $35.00
ASKING: $20.00

Attractive, and natural
Popular and in style, shorter length,
VIKKI, P.O. Box 66
Allston, Mass. 02134

- BULLETIN BOARD - (cont.)

DISCO LOUNGE

to open soon in East Northport, Long Island, NY.

Kim and Christine announce the opening of their lounge, scheduled to open around Oct. 1. Their lounge will be oriented towards TVs, with dressing rooms, and entertainment.

For further information, call:
516-737-0030

TV I.D. CARDS FOR SALE

The Crossroads Chapter of Flint, Mich. now has transvestite identification cards for sale. These cards may be useful if you are out in public and need to identify yourself. The cards are available through the Crossroads Chapter for $1.00 plus a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Crossroads Chapter
P.O. Box 3013
Flint, Michigan 48502

WARDROBE FOR SALE

A complete wardrobe, consisting of 6 dresses, a long gown, a dozen shirts, many tops, several pairs of shoes (size 9) and one pair boots (black). Also, three wigs, a pocketbook, stockings, underwear, nighties, etc. The dresses are size 14½ and 16 (fits a person to 5'9", weighing 150-160 lbs), the skirts are size 14 (32" waist), and the tops are large or size 18 (will fit a person who wears size 38 to 40 coat). Many items have not been worn, or worn only once or twice. All items are in good to excellent condition.

ASKING $120.00 for everything If interested, contact:
Merissa Sherrill Lynn 603-964-8668
c/o Tiffany Club
Box 426
N. Hampton, NH 03862

- SHANGRI LA -

A social and educational exprience for members and friends of the crossdressing community held annually in Bulfport, Miss. The next Shangri La is to be held April 9-13, 1980. Interested persons should contact:

Nancy Watson
p.o. Box 18202
Irvine, Ca. 92713

- MISC. -

Alphabet soup. In the Tiffany Club we now have a Bea, a Bebe, a Cece, a DeeDee, a Gigi, a Jay and a Kay (no l-m-n-o-p though. Yet!)

- MISSING -

Charlotte Vail was asking for a roommate, and has since disappeared. We are very worried about her. If anyone has information as to her whereabouts or well being, it would be greatly appreciated. PLEASE!

CHARLOTTE VAIL
"The boy with the million dollar legs"

MISC.

INTRODUCING
DeeDee W.'s latest hit tune "Ma She's looking Wild At Me". This marvelous song is destined to be the hottest tune to hit the charts since DeeDee's ode to a transsexual "Just a Gal in a Gelded Stage". (recommended for serious students of music as a fine art)

Ma, she's looking wild at me.
Ma, she wants to have a child by me.
Now she's got her hand on my leg,
It delights me.
  Mercy how this chick excites me!
Ma, she wants to marry me,
  what is there to say?
Now she's holding my connection,
Holy Cow what an erection
Ma, she's killing me.

(brings tears to my eye)

DEEDEE W.

FORUM

The Forum is for exploring what we think, what we feel, what we say and so, for exploring our difficulties, our guilts and fears, and how we can overcome them. The Forums is not for fiction or fantasy or technical articles. Rather, it is for talk, for thought, for understanding ourselves and one another, and for sharing ourselves with others.

A TRANSVESTITE PHILOSOPHIZES
by
RuthAnn Moskowitz

I was terribly pleased to see and read Priscilla Kucik's column, "Confessions of a Female Voyeur (Or Why Men Should Wear Skirts)" Her point of view, her sympathetic portrayal of Bill Cushing and others like him, will help to break down the prison of gender that has forced most people in our society to give up a full half of their souls, the masculine (if you're female), and feminine (if you're male) side and potential of your personality.

Though I fear that her headline may be interpreted as a rigid imperative by men who have no such desire, I am intensely

RUTHANN MOSKOWITZ

interested in the question of what to do about men who are in touch with a desire or need to wear women's clothing. Such men are generally hit with the label 'transvestite' (TV) or 'crossdresser' (as if crossdressing is the only thing they do with their lives). Most are classified by 'helping' professionals as 'psychologically disturbed,' and tend to be ridiculed by a society-by people-who don't know any better.

As you may have guessed, my intense interest comes from actually being one of these people. That is, a TV (though I accept the label reluctantly, for lack of anything better). Those who have heard about us or had any professional contact with us, professionals included, are terribly misinformed about the whole phenomenon. They fall prey to the stereotype that all TV's are homosexual, that they are trying to mock women, that they are trying to get attention by being deliberately outrageous. This impression usually comes from some kind of contact with "drag queens" or professional female impressionists like Craig Russell. The most extreme examples of the cross-dressing phenomenon are taken to be the norm.

In fact, in virtually every way - demographic and otherwise - TV's are just like their non-crossdressing counterparts. Overwhelmingly heterosexual. Family men in actuality or aspiration. All races, religions, national origins, ages, income groups. You name it.

Most TV's, however, are terribly afraid of being "discovered" by unsympatheti people and subjected to ridicube and harassment. (In some areas, the mere act of crossdressing in public is illegal!) Many are afraid to tell their wives, families, friends. And so most TVs relegate their crossdressing to the closet, whether it be the privacy of their own bedroom or a motel room rented for just this purpose. So unlike the drag queen or impressionist, we're not apt to be seen on the street or in the bar.

Little is really known about what "causes" men to want to crossdress (though most experts agree that it has little to do with sex and sexuality and everything to do with gender, ie, with masculine-feminine rather than male-female or gay-straight). Many shrinks try to cure them. Perhaps anticipating or knowing this, most TVs have rarely if ever been to a shrink. In fact, many TVs aren't particularly disturbed by their crossdressing desires. What does disturb us, depress us, make us paranoid, is the social environment in which we do what we do. The fear of rejection and punishment from an unsympathetic and threatened society. (As with gay people, only the most unhappy ones do much therapy around their dressing, and yet professionals generalize about us on that basis.)

My view, and that of increasing numbers of others, is that crossdressing is somehow bound up with the universal personal drive toward androgeny. I sanse that in a truly androgynous culture, ie a genderless but not sexless one- there wouldn't be any such thing as crossdressing, or indeed could there be. It would have no meaning.

For me, crossdressing has been - in retrospect - a wedge. Not a deliberately chosen one, by any means. But an effective one nonetheless. A way into becoming a more whole healthy male person. (I do not want to be a woman, and those male crossdressers who do are usually on the transsexual path, not the TV one.) Over the past year, as I've given my femme self more freedom, I've been able to integrate more and more of my feminine qualities (especially of dress and movement) into my day to day life. Whether dressed as a man or woman.

My desire to express my idea of beauty through my appearance, to be graceful, to be stroked by the smooth feel of those fabrics, to sometimes be passive and receptive, to get attention, and so on, are all bound up with my crossdressing. With those women's clothes on, there's a relaxation that I feel as these parts of my soul come oozing out.

I don't mean to say that crossdressing is or should be the decisive wedge for all men. I encourage all men - as I hope all feminists, and non-feminists for that matter - to find their own personal wedge. For some it may be dance. For others, childrearing. As far as I can tell now, crossdressing will probably not be the decisive wedge for most men (though my experience in men's consciousness raising roups has shown me that many men - far more than I ever imagined - have at least some continuing crossdressing desires.)

meanwhile, back to the question of what to do about men who feel the urge or need to crossdress. First, you are not alone!! There are many others like you. Second, to the rest of the world, please try to see us and treat us as individual people. Try to understand what we're doing. Maybe even pick up one or two books. Please try to treat us as you would any other person who has not hurt you and is not trying to hurt you, as you would any other person who is trying to be true to him or her self.

Third, to Priscilla, thanks for helping to hasten the day when this sort of acceptance of, and respect for, crossgeneral behavior will be commonplace.

- END -

(This poem was written by Janet in January, 1977, was a difficult time, a time when she was confirming her decision to opt for reassignment surgery.)

ON BECOMING
by
Janet Birmingham

I looked upon a dawning day
And on my knees began to pray,
That as I am to me,
To others I shall be.

Come - stand by me and
hold my hand.

I look upon the flakes of snow
And in my heart I want to know,
Can I say with certainty
That in my heart is purity?

Come - stand by me and
hold my hand.

I held within my hands a child,
So small, so new, so undefiled.
And wonder filled my mind to see
This babe I held, a part of me.

Come - stand by me and
hold my hand.

I heard the sounds of swirling foam
Upon the ocean where I roam,
And as on course I fought to stay,
I laughed for I enjoyed that day.

Come - stand by me and
hold my hand.

But as I lived from day to day,
I heard a voice within me say,
Am I as I ought to be?
Am I as I ought to be?

Come - stand by me and
hold my hand.

The dawning days still come and go,
I see each year more flakes of snow,
The little child has gone from me.
The specks of foam are in the sea.

Come - stand by me and
hold my hand.

The voice that asked persistantly,
Am I as I ought to be?
I hear it every day inside
Until at last I cannot hide.

Come - stand by me and
hold my hand.

Now I am what I would be,
The same to you as I to me,
But time is short, the days are cold,
Please come to me before I'm old.

Come - stand by me and
hold my hand.

Thank you Janet, and God Bless.

Merissa